

Neighborhood Watch Newsletter



Volume 18 Issue 4

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Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, CPTED, is based on the idea that the proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the incidence and fear of crime, and an improvement in the quality of life. In other words, if a site is laid out well, the likelihood of it being targeted for a crime may be reduced.

Crime Prevention is defined as the anticipation, recognition and appraisal of a crime risk and the initiation of some action to remove or reduce it. CPTED takes crime prevention one step further by studying the site design and working with the development community and public development agencies in an attempt to create safer designs in new and existing developments.



The physical design of your neighborhood, its layout, lighting, building and maintenance, can affect the levels of crime and fear in your neighborhood. The "Broken Windows" theory, describes how the quick response to the small problems of broken windows, graffiti, trash, etc can stop the escalation toward bigger crime problems occurring.

This explanation of the "broken window" theory was written by Henry G. Cisneros when he was Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. It was published in a series of essays titled "Defensible Space: Deterring Crime and Building Community" - January 1995.

Westminster Police Department

8200 Westminster Blvd.
Westminster, CA 92683
Emergencies Call 911

Business Line:
714-898-3315

Dispatch Ext: 3212
Traffic Division Ext. 3220
Records Bureau Ext. 3218

Business Hours:
Sunday- Saturday
7:00a.m. – 7:00p.m.
Website:
www.westminster-ca.gov/depts/police

James Q. Wilson and George Kelling developed the 'broken windows' thesis to explain the signaling function of neighborhood characteristics. This thesis suggests that the following sequence of events can be expected in deteriorating neighborhoods. Evidence of decay (accumulated trash, broken windows, deteriorated building exteriors) remains in the neighborhood for a reasonably long period of time. People who live and work in the area feel more vulnerable and begin to withdraw. They become less willing to intervene to maintain public order (for example, to attempt to break up groups of rowdy teens loitering on street corners) or to address physical signs of deterioration.

Sensing this, teens and other possible offenders become bolder and intensify their harassment and vandalism. Residents become yet more fearful and withdraw further from community involvement and upkeep. This atmosphere then attracts offenders from outside the area, who sense that it has become a vulnerable and less risky site for crime. The "broken window" theory suggests that neighborhood order strategies such as those listed below help to deter and reduce crime.

- Quick replacement of broken windows
- Prompt removal of abandoned vehicles
- Fast clean up of illegally dumped items, litter and spilled garbage
- Quick paint out of graffiti
- Finding (or building) better places for teens to gather than street corners
- Fresh paint on buildings
- Clean sidewalks and street gutters. 🗑️

CPTED looks at the entire neighborhood to identify areas or elements that may have the potential to attract crime. Knowing simple CPTED design principals can lead to solutions that can be undertaken to reduce fear and prevent crime in these areas. CPTED can also help you plan ahead for future development in your neighborhood.

CPTED is based on four elements:

Natural Surveillance



Natural Surveillance is a design concept directed primarily at keeping intruders under observation. It utilizes design features to increase the visibility of a property or building.

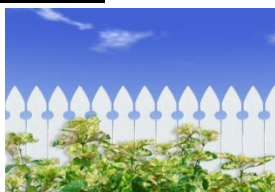
The proper placement and design of windows, lighting, and landscaping increases the ability of those who care to observe intruders as well as regular users, and thus provides the opportunity to challenge inappropriate behavior or report it to the police or the property owner. When natural surveillance is used to its greatest advantage, it maximizes the potential to deter crime by making the offender's behavior more easily noticeable to a passing individual, police patrol, or private security detail.

Natural Surveillance - The Visual Connection:

Provide a good visual connection between residential and/or commercial units and public environments such as streets, common areas, parks, sidewalks, parking areas and alleys. Place activity rooms such as kitchens, living/family rooms and lobbies to allow for good viewing of parking, streets and/or common areas. Managers, doormen, attendants, and security personnel should have extensive views of these areas.

Natural Access Control

Natural access control employs elements like doors, shrubs, fences, and gates to deny admission to a crime target and to create a perception among offenders that there is a risk in selecting the target. The primary thrust of an access control strategy is to deny access to a crime target and to create a perception of risk to offenders. Physical and mechanical means of access control—locks, bars, and alarms can supplement natural access control



measures if needed. A fence around a neighborhood playground is an example of an access control measure that protects children from wandering off and inhibits entry of potential offenders.

Territorial Reinforcement

Territorial reinforcement employs such design elements as sidewalks, landscaping, and porches to help distinguish between public and private areas and helps users exhibit signs of "ownership" that send "hands off" messages to would-be offenders. The concept of territorial reinforcement suggests that physical design can create or extend a sphere of territorial influence and potential offenders perceive that territorial influence. For example: low walls, landscape and paving patterns to clearly define the space around a unit entry as belonging to (and the responsibility of) the



residents of the unit.


Territorial Reinforcement Fosters A Sense Of Ownership:

People take more interest in something they own or when they feel intrinsically involved. Therefore, the environment should be designed to clearly delineate private spaces. Provide obvious defined entries, patios, balconies and terraces. Use low walls, landscape and paving patterns to delineate ownership and responsibility.

Maintenance

Lastly, care and maintenance allows for the continued use of a space for its intended purpose. Deterioration and blight indicate less concern and control by the intended users of a site and indicate a greater tolerance of disorder.

Proper maintenance protects the public health, safety and welfare in all existing structures, residential and nonresidential, and on all existing premises by establishing minimum requirements and acceptable standards. Maintenance is the responsibility of the owners, operators and occupants.

If you would like more information about CPTED multiple resources are available online. 

A Parent's Guide to Internet Safety

Studies have shown almost 67% of children 13 – 17 years old have profiles on social networking sites such as MySpace and Facebook. The same studies show that the majority of these children have access to the Internet with NO adult supervision.

Countless arrests have been made, locally and nationally, of adults who use the Internet to make contact with children for sexual encounters. These adults are willing to search for children victims online, create online relationships with them, and drive to meet them in person. The best tool to keep everyone safe is for parents and children to be aware of these dangers so that a child won't become a victim.

The Federal Trade Commission has published a guidebook called *Net Cetera – Chatting with Kids About Being Online*. This publication is a great resource to assist parents in starting conversations about internet privacy and safety.

To access this publication please visit their website at:

<http://www.onguardonline.gov/pdf/tec04.pdf> 

Cash for Appliances

The California Energy Commission is accepting old, energy-consuming appliances. The Cash for Appliances program can be combined with other rebate programs for additional savings, and stores that participate in the State Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program will pick up your old appliance for free!

To qualify, you must have an appliance that is not already rated as energy efficient. Rebate categories include:

\$100 for washers
\$200 for refrigerators
\$50 for air conditioners

One rebate of each appliance type can be awarded per residential household. A residential consumer can receive a total of \$350 if they purchase a new qualifying appliance of each type and recycle an old unit of each type.

For more information about the program, or how much money your appliances are costing you, check out the Cash for Appliances website at:

<http://www.cash4appliances.org/> 

Financial Education Resources

The State Controller's office has new helpful information on managing your finances. This information is intended to provide access to basic, unbiased information on how to be smart about your personal finances. Website resources to free government and non-profit resources provide helpful information on:

- Improving personal financial skills
- Saving for emergencies, retirement and health care
- Facts about foreclosure
- Planning for big purchases such as buying a home or car
- Managing credit and debt

For more information, visit the State Controller's website at:
http://www.sco.ca.gov/eo_news_yourfinances_intro.html 

DID YOU KNOW THAT WESTMINSTER PD IS ON:



Facebook



MySpace



Twitter

City of Westminster Department Directory

Animal Control:
714-548-3201

Chamber of
Commerce:
714-898-9648

City Hall:
714-548-4000

Code Enforcement:
714-548-3246

Fair Housing
Department:
714-569-0823

Family Resource
Center:
714-903-1331

Graffiti Hotline:
714-548-3253

Midway City Sanitary
District
714-893-3553

Health Department:
714-677-3600

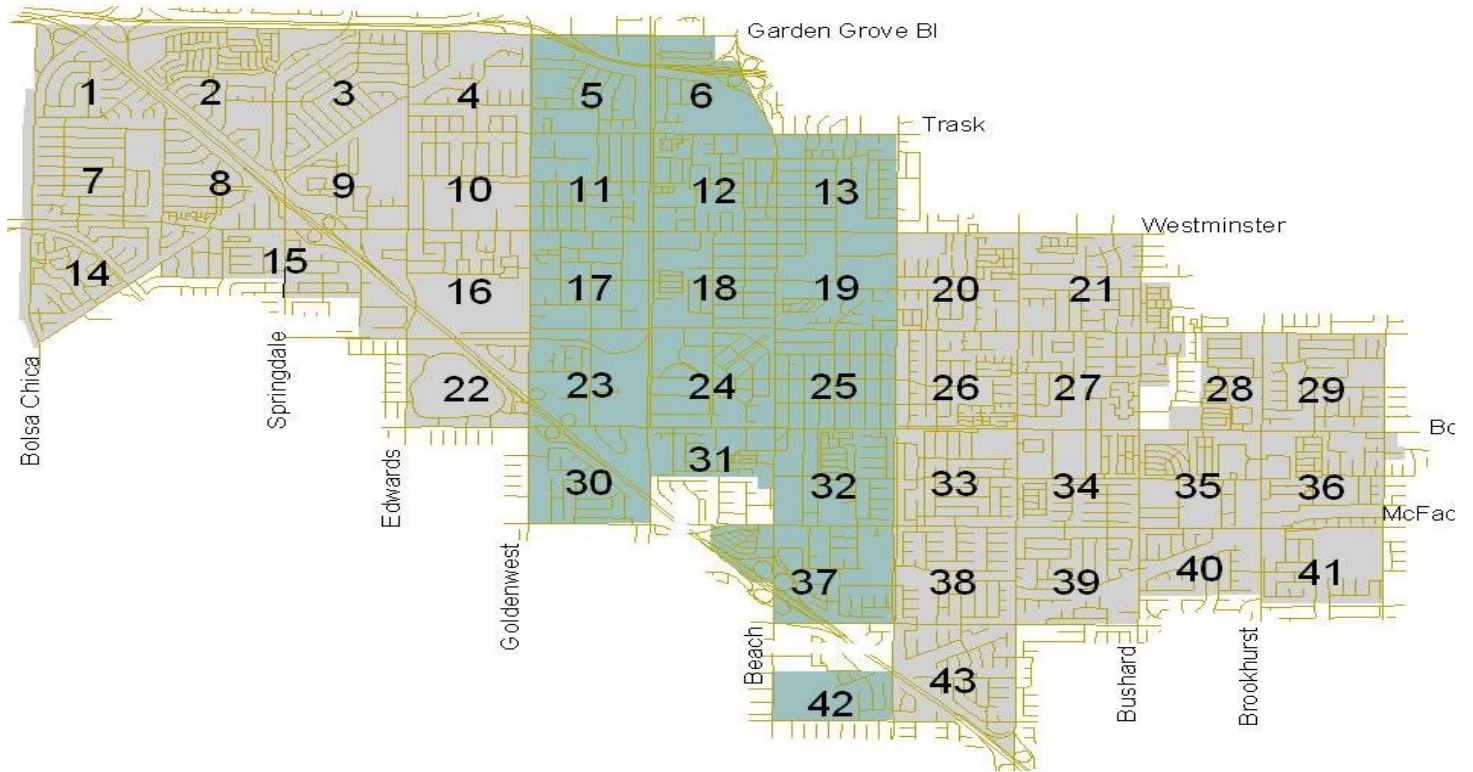
West Justice Center:
714-896-7111

Recruitment:
714-548-3202

Westminster Senior
Center:
714-895-2878

Vector Control:
714-971-2421

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER



RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES

A R E A	MAY	JUNE	YTD	LAST YEAR	A R E A	MAY	JUNE	YTD	LAST YEAR	A R E A	MAY	JUNE	YTD	LAST YEAR
1	0	0	0	1	16	0	0	1	2	31	0	1	2	0
2	0	2	4	6	17	2	0	5	1	32	0	1	1	0
3	1	3	9	5	18	1	2	7	5	33	1	2	7	5
4	0	2	4	4	19	1	1	3	0	34	0	0	2	3
5	1	1	6	0	20	1	0	7	6	35	0	0	5	4
6	0	0	4	0	21	1	0	4	4	36	0	0	4	6
7	1	0	2	4	22	0	0	0	0	37	0	0	0	1
8	0	0	0	4	23	0	0	0	0	38	1	0	3	0
9	1	0	2	2	24	0	0	0	0	39	1	2	6	5
10	2	2	11	4	25	0	0	0	0	40	0	0	0	2
11	0	0	2	2	26	0	0	1	2	41	0	0	1	2
12	0	0	4	3	27	0	1	8	2	42	0	0	0	0
13	0	1	2	3	28	1	0	4	4	43	1	0	2	4
14	0	1	2	5	29	1	0	2	4					
15	0	0	2	3	30	0	0	0	4					

	MAY	JUNE	YTD
TOTAL BURGLARIES	18	22	129

This newsletter is published bimonthly. It is compiled and edited by Ja'Nelle Belton, WPD Police Service Officer- Community Relations.